

22 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DD/PSI

SUBJECT : "WHERE'S WHAT" - Recommendation  
Against Declassification Thereof

1. In connection with your request (see exhibit #1 attached) that I contact appropriate government agency contributors to ascertain if it is possible to declassify the information relating to same. I have not taken any other action to implement your request, other than to ascertain from OGC that time is not of the essence in the matter inasmuch as OGC has not received any indication that the SEC employee referred to in the OGC memorandum for the record dated 25 April 1975 is being considered for prosecution for his action with respect to the Subject book (see exhibit #2 attached).

2. As a result of my review of this matter, I believe that the Agency should not take any initiative, at this time, to declassify "WHERE'S WHAT" for the following reasons:

a. If "WHERE'S WHAT" is declassified, we will lose what little control we have over the future distribution and use of the book. The present Confidential classification is at least a deterrent to further dissemination of 43 copies ~~by~~ local police agencies (there is evidence in the files that certain PSI field offices also provided additional copies to local and state police agencies).

b. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration requested this Agency to declassify the book in 1971. After we told them that we could not do so because of commitments made to contributing government agencies, they explored the possibility of the publication of same in an unclassified form - this effort was reportedly abandoned because of legal problems inasmuch as the author had not obtained

releases from private contributors. In May 1972, Mr. John F. Blake recognized this potential conflict with copyright laws - a copy of his memorandum is attached marked as exhibit #3. It is submitted that it would be inadvisable, at this time, to attempt to get such releases.

c. It is believed that publicity that could or might be generated by the declassification and resulting wider use and attention to the book, at this time, could result in embarrassing questions or publicity, concerning the propriety of the Agency's publication of same and raise (admittedly unjustifiably) the issue of Agency involvement in domestic law enforcement.

3. It is, therefore, recommended that no further action be taken in this matter, at this time. I will hold all the material related to this matter, pending a decision.

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Attachments - 3 Exhibits